



MEMORANDUM

August 2, 2023

TO: City of Belmont

FROM: Bryan Godbe
President
Godbe Research

RE: 2023 Recreation Needs Assessment Survey – Summary of the Results

Introduction:

The City of Belmont commissioned Godbe Research to conduct independent public opinion research to assess resident recreation needs.

The results show a solid majority of respondents have a favorable view of the job the City is doing to provide services and manage taxpayer funds.

Methodology Overview:

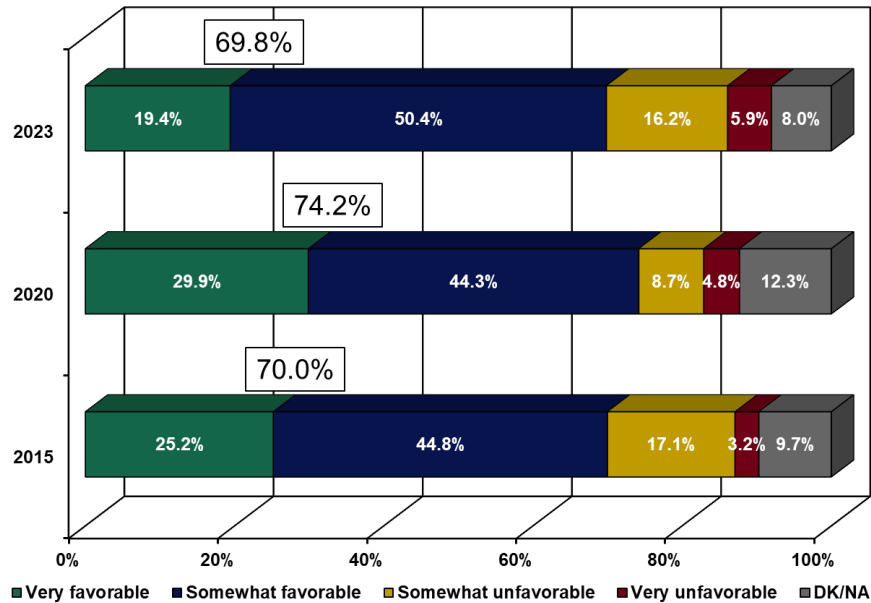
Telephone and online interviews were conducted from May 30 to June 6, 2023. A total of 359 City of Belmont respondents participated in the survey, and the study parameters resulted in a margin of error of plus or minus 5.11 percent.

Conclusion:

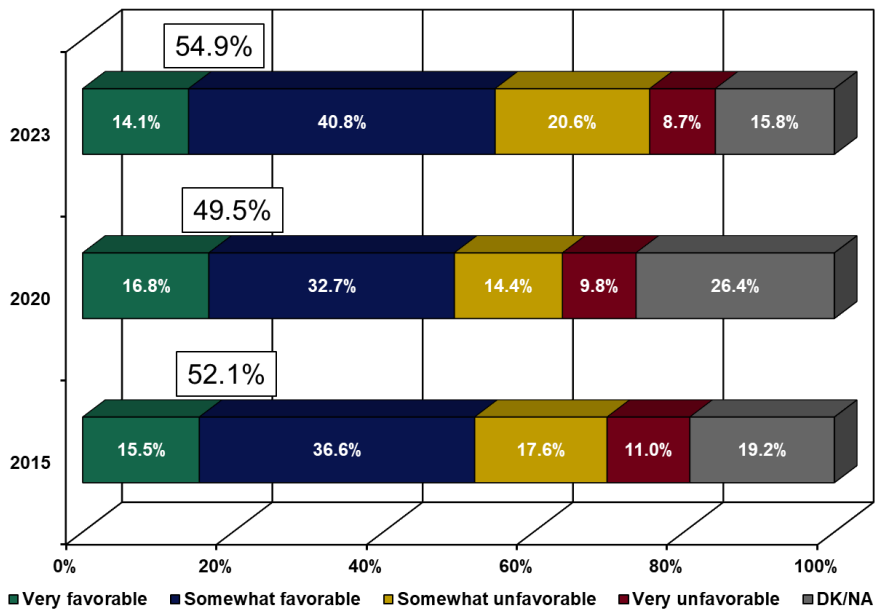
The results show residents are satisfied with the job the City is doing to provide services. The survey also indicates that respondents see a variety of recreational needs in the City of Belmont.

Satisfaction with the City of Belmont's Job Performance:

Seventy percent respondents indicated that they had a favorable impression of the job the City is doing to provide services, a 3.16-to-1 satisfaction-to-dissatisfaction ratio. Given the survey margin of error, there is no statistical variation when compared to previous years.



Similarly 55 percent of respondents indicated that they had a favorable impression of the job the City is doing to manage public funds. Again, statistically the same as previous years.



Respondents Identified a Variety of Key Recreation Needs:

Respondents were presented with a variety of recreation services to determine resident needs. The results suggest clear preferences, with nearly 60 percent of residents identifying the top four items as important, including “Provide sports courts and fields for youth, teen and adult sports and a safe children's play area”, “Provide parks and a multi-generational center for youths, teens, adults and seniors”, “Maintain childcare and after-school programs for children and teens”, and “Provide new outdoor walking paths, community gardens and picnic areas”.

Provide sports courts and fields for youth, teen and adult sports and a safe children's play area	0.73
Provide parks and a multi-generational center for youths, teens, adults and seniors	0.68
Maintain childcare and after-school programs for children and teens	0.60
Provide new outdoor walking paths, community gardens and picnic areas	0.60
Maintain building safety and update community recreation facilities to current earthquake and fire safety standards	0.59
Create and maintain multi-generational, sports, arts and crafts, fitness, and health and wellness programs for youths, teens, adults and seniors	0.58
Provide adult lap swimming, recreational and leisure swimming, and youth water play facilities	0.52
Provide a safe space for relief and recovery for local families in any emergency	0.51
Maintain senior services including health, fitness, nutrition, wellness, and transportation programs	0.49
Provide a disaster relief center and emergency shelter	0.45

Respondents Identified Key Challenges with Belmont Recreation:

Respondents also identified several key challenges confronting recreational needs in Belmont, including: “The current community center is 73 years old and was built as a school, and it is well beyond its useful life”, “More than 1,700 youths attend a program at the community center every week and 123 participate in outdoor sports every day. They need a community center that has capacity for these activities”, “The outdated community center does not match Belmont's current thriving community. Residents need a community center with modern amenities and space where local seniors, youths and families can gather”, and “Belmont recreation facilities are at capacity and to meet growing demand and avoid waiting lists for senior, adult, teen and children's recreation programs”.

The current community center is 73 years old and was built as a school, and it is well beyond its useful life. We need a modern facility built for the Belmont community of today that meets current earthquake and fire safety standards	1.08
More than 1,700 youths attend a program at the community center every week and 123 participate in outdoor sports every day. They need a community center that has capacity for these activities	0.98
The outdated community center does not match Belmont's current thriving community. Residents need a community center with modern amenities and space where local seniors, youths and families can gather	0.95
Belmont recreation facilities are at capacity and to meet growing demand and avoid waiting lists for senior, adult, teen and children's recreation programs...	0.93
The new community center will provide after school enrichment and tutorial programs for children, and facilitate greater school and city collaboration to enhance quality learning	0.91
...maintain after-school recreation and youth crime prevention programs including mentoring and tutoring, that keep youths and teens off the streets and out of trouble	0.90
Belmont needs a disaster relief center and emergency shelter in case of a medical catastrophe, natural disaster, school emergency, or any other state of emergency	0.90
The new community center can be a safe community space during extreme weather and air quality events, providing cooling, heating and smoke free air	0.90

Future of the Economy:

Respondents in the current survey are more likely to think the economy will be the same or better next year (60.6%) when compared to data from the 2020 survey (49.5%).

